

Saturday, February 9 (*tidbits from sectionals*)

Planning an Effective School Board Meeting - Lon Garrison began this presentation with Stephen Covey's quote from the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, "Begin with the end in mind." Your meeting purpose will determine the meeting focus, the meeting agenda, and the meeting participants.

The focal point of this presentation was building an agenda that accomplishes the goals of the meeting. The discussion included advertising the agenda, compiling an agenda, getting an item on the agenda, aligning the agenda to a district strategic plan and board/district priorities, portals for public comment, and potential improvements of the process.

Running an Effective Meeting Part 1 and 2 Tiffany Jackson and Timi Tullis: Goals are essential. What is the group 'end point' and why? Being focused and prepared is essential. Tone is very important. Public accessibility to materials is essential and public comments are welcome so board is informed. It is important to note that school board meetings are 'held in public', but they are not considered public meetings. Beware of conversations that drift down a hole, and remember to stop ideas that veer off topic. When all comments on a topic are the same, ask board members if they have 'new information' on the topic that is being discussed. Avoid surprises. Always provide the Superintendent and administration advance notice when new issues are introduced. It is important to maintain a positive relationship with administration. Being transparent provides for efficiency and effectiveness.

School Board Meeting Follow-Up - Timi Tullis: After a school board meeting is completed, a "Check of Success" survey can be conducted either by the Chair or via a survey monkey. The following survey items can be included: 1. Was the agenda used and followed; 2. Did the board do their homework and were they prepared; 3. Did the president list each item on the agenda; 4. Were speaking privileges granted through the chair; 5. Was discussion focused on the issues in the agenda; 6. Were Robert's Rules followed to facilitate conversation; 7. Were effective decision-making practices used to reach agreement; 8. Was respect and teamwork followed during the meeting? "What can we do next time to be better" was a final question. Additional questions can be added to this list.

Open Meetings Act - Lon Garrison: – He discussed Board Meetings vs Advisory Committee Meetings, law, provided great examples, and listed the four reasons for executive sessions: sensitive financial issues, sensitive reputation issues, legally confidential information, and legally confidential documents.

Superintendent Evaluation – Sean Dusek, Penny Vadla, and Lon Garrison: The three of us developed a series of questions regarding the superintendent evaluation. Superintendent Dusek and I discussed KPBSD process. We discussed the following: 1: Our superintendent evaluation process. 2: Why the process was important. 3: The timeframe to complete the process. 4: Our feelings regarding the process. 5: The evaluation tool we currently use. 6: What evidence is presented by the superintendent to support his progress. 7: The evaluation was not totally currently aligned to the strategic plan and superintendent and board goals and priorities. We also noted that the evaluation is a personnel matter so notes, etc. are not part of public record. We have been planning the development of a performance-based superintendent evaluation tool to align with our strategic plan.

Sunday, February 10 (*tidbits from sectionals*)

Advocating with Youth Claudia Plesa: This was another great presentation. An Advocacy Planning Checklist was given that listed the seven steps to advocacy: Step 1: What needs to change? Step 2: Who can make that change happen?; Step 3: How can I influence my advocacy targets to make that change?; Step 4: How can I ensure meaningful participation of young people?; Step 5: Who can I work with?; Step 6 What obstacles might I face? How can I overcome obstacles and risks?; and Step 7: How will I monitor and evaluate my advocacy to prove it is working? This list of steps, along with the bullet points listed underneath each step, provides a solid framework for successful planning.

Key Legislative Issues and Bill Preview – Norm Wooten: This valuable presentation gave us an overview of key member of the legislature, leadership positions in House and Senate, new members to the legislature, Key legislative issues, Education Bills filed, ASA/AASB Joint Legislative Positions, and more.

Lunch Guest Speaker – Commissioner AK Department of Education - Michael Johnson stated that, We will meet Alaska’s Education Challenges TOGETHER through Public Commitments, Positive Trajectories, and Priorities Strategies as stated on a slide in his presentation. He has always championed education.

Like Size Forums and AASB Presentation – We gathered in the Large District forum to develop our shared priority list. We then gathered with other all districts and shared our priorities. From this collective list, AASB came up with a joint position statement.

Monday, February 11 –

Telephonically, I attended the KPBSD Special meeting in the morning, the Superintendent Search work session in the afternoon, and a Regular School Board meeting in the evening.

Our team had appointments with Rep. Kopp, attended the Senate Education Committee Meeting, met with Rep. Stutes, Sen. Shower’s staff, Rep. LaDoux, Rep. Sponholtz, Rep. Ortiz, Sen. Stevens, Rep. Story, and Sen Begich.

Tuesday, February 12 –

Our team met with Sen. Micciche, Rep. Knopp, Sen Giessel staff, Sen. Kawasaki, Sen. Drummond, Commissioner Michael Johnson, Sen. Olson, Gov. Dunleavy staff, Rep. Lincoln, Rep Vance, Rep. Carpenter, and Senator Stedman.

Wednesday, February 13 – Debbie Cary and I ventured to the hill in the morning and connected with staff members so we could distribute the last of our materials to Senators and Representatives. When a Senator or a Representative was not available for the scheduled appointment, we met with a staff member, presented our information, and left KPBSD materials for the Senator or Representative.

We had some very good discussions and shared our KPBSD story with legislators during this trip.

Thank you to the Administration for encouraging and supporting participation in this professional development conference. It is important to tell our positive story to members of the Legislature.

Thank you,

Penny Vadla, Board President